# TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

*A News Letter*

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## MEETING OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Honorable Daniel C. Roper, Secretary of Commerce, has set aside the week of May 21st, for the conduct of the sessions of the Fourth National Conference on Street and Highway Safety, and the meetings of related committees. All of the meetings during the week will be held in the building of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, 1615 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. For several months various committees have been at work reviewing the codes, ordinances and standards adopted in 1930 by the Third Conference, in view of past experience and the new methods and practices which have since developed. Based upon these studies a number of revisions and additions are being proposed for consideration.

All members of the Institute of Traffic Engineers are being invited to attend the Conference and copies of the tentative program have been distributed. In addition, at the request of President Marsh, copies of committee reports and the proposed new codes, ordinances and standards have been mailed to all Institute members. As supplies of these reports are limited, members are requested to bring their copies to the Conference meetings. It is the sincere hope of the officers of the Institute that as many members as possible will be present.

## UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

The entire day of Monday, May 21st, will be devoted to the proposed Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices which has been prepared by a Joint Committee on Signs, Markings, Signals and Islands. This Committee composed of representatives of the National Conference and the National Association of Highway Officials, was appointed to bring into uniformity the existing standards of these two bodies and to make recommendations for necessary revisions and additions in order that the new manual might represent current practices.

The Monday sessions will be in the form of an open meeting of the Joint Committee to which interested parties are invited. The Conference discussion of this Manual will be held on Thursday and final action will be taken on Friday afternoon. The tentative draft of the Manual was discussed at the last annual meeting of the Institute. Since then additional consideration has been given and changes made. It is suggested that Institute members give a careful study to those parts of the Manual in which they are particularly interested. To conserve time it is also asked that Institute Members make written notations concerning paragraphs to which exceptions to principle are taken. You are requested to indicate the part number, page number and sections number in which these exceptions occur and forward them in advance to Mr. E. W. James, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Signs, c/o Winder Building, Washington, D. C. Mr. James will recapitulate the written comments and prepare them in the form of an agenda for discussion at the committee meeting.

COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC LAWS AND ORDINANCES

The entire day of Tuesday, May 22nd, will be given over to an open meeting of this Committee, at which an opportunity will be afforded to discuss recommended changes in the revised draft of the model vehicle code and the model municipal traffic ordinance. Special consideration will be given to that portion of Act V which refers to Gross Weights of Vehicles and Loads, which has not been acted upon by the Committee. This meeting will continue through the afternoon and evening if necessary. Conference discussions of these acts will take place on Wednesday and Thursday.

MODEL VEHICLE CODE

Following the opening of the Conference on Wednesday the 23rd, by an address by the Secretary of Commerce, and the organization of the Conference, the remainder of the day will be given to a Conference discussion of the Model Vehicle Code. In considering necessary revisions in the Uniform Vehicle Code adopted in 1930, the Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances has redesignated the Code as a "Model Vehicle Code" instead of "Uniform Vehicle Code". This change was made as it was recognized that the substance rather than the exact text was important. The new code consists of 5 acts which have been prepared so as to reclassify some of the formed material and add additional proposals. The five acts are as follows:

I - Administration, Registration and Certificate of Title Act
II - Operators' and Chauffeurs' License Act
III - Civil Liability Act
IV - Safety Responsibility Act
V - Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways

## MODEL MUNICIPAL TRAFFIC ORDINANCE

The proposed revision of this Ordinance will be presented for Conference discussion on Thursday, the 24th, and for final enactment on Friday afternoon the 25th. In the proposed revision a clear distinction is made between -

1 - Local traffic regulations not suitable for state legislation, and
2 - Basic rules of the road which should be covered by uniform state law provisions.

## THE FUTURE OF UNIFORM LEGISLATION

Friday morning, May 25th, has been set aside for a program designated to emphasize the need of wide spread cooperation and interest in the development of uniform legislation. Hon. Joseph B. Ely, Governor of Massachusetts, is to speak on the Responsibility of the States and Hon. Bernard F. Dickman, Mayor of St. Louis is to speak on the Responsibility of the Municipalities. The Responsibility of Industry and the Public for Street and Highway Safety will be discussed by other speakers.

## FINAL SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

Final sessions of the Conference which will be held on Friday afternoon presenting an opportunity for official action on the proposed recommendations, the presentation of statements by participating organizations and the adoption of resolutions. The Conference will be closed by the Secretary of Commerce.

## INFORMAL INSTITUTE MEETING

As many members of the Institute undoubtedly will be in Washington during the Fourth National Conference arrangements are being made for an informal Institute meeting. These arrangements are in the hands of a Special Committee under the Chairmanship of William G. Eliot, 3rd, Associate Highway Economist of the United States Bureau of Roads, c/o Winder Building, Washington, D. C. Tentative arrangements have been made to meet at a dinner on Thursday, May 24th, perhaps at the Cosmos Club. Provision will be made to enable members to attend any evening sessions of the Conference which might be called for the same day. No formal program is being prepared, but each member is being requested to bring with him survey analyses, drafts, or other material illustrating something new which he is doing.

Please advise Mr. Eliot if you plan to attend.

## INSTITUTE POLICIES

Each Institute member is requested to examine the summarized report of Dr. Miller McClintock's Committee on Policy to be found on pages 111-113 inclusive of the recently issued Annual Proceedings, and to write Dr. McClintock, giving his viewpoints on the matters of policy therein presented. Dr. McClintock will also appreciate comments on additional Institute policy matters which members may care to present. Please address Dr. McClintock, Auditor, Traffic Audit Bureau, Inc,, 1 Park Avenue, New York City.

## TRAFFIC SURVEY MANUAL

Steps are being taken for placing in the hands of each member of the Institute a complete copy of the Traffic Survey Manual, developed during the past few months for C. W. A. Traffic Surveys under the direction of Mr. Sidney J. Williams.

While many members of the Institute have their own ideas concerning certain types of surveys, it is believed that this manual will be a useful reference document. Its use will make for more accurate comparisons between traffic facts from different cities.

## MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Numerous members of the Institute are issuing mimeographed reports, analyses, and the like, or could put certain of their work into such shape. One of the greatest values of the Institute will come from a more active interchanging of such materials. If any member has such material but cannot finance its reproduction and mailing, it is requested that he send it to Mr. Maxwell S. Halsey, Chairman of the Publications Committee, c/o National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters, 1 Park Avenue, New York City.

While the Institute cannot assure the sender that it will publish such material, new or different techniques or approaches to problems will generally be reported, at least in summarized form.

Won't you please cooperate on this matter?

## FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

The National Automobile Chamber of Commerce has offered to send copies of the 1934 edition of "Facts and Figures of the Automobile Industry" to all members of the Institute upon request. The booklet will be ready for distribution about June 15th.

Requests for copies should be addressed to National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, 366 Madison Avenue, New York City.